



March 8, 2012

The Honorable Jim Jordan  
The Republican Study Committee  
1524 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Jordan,

Thank you for your work in the Republican Study Committee to create the State Health Flexibility Act, a bill that would bring desperately needed reform to the Medicaid program. **On behalf of Independent Women's Voice, I endorse H.R. 4160, the State Health Flexibility Act, and urge Congress to pass it.**

The purpose of Medicaid is to help the most vulnerable members of society. But like many other anti-poverty programs, the federal government is in control, and a uniform, one-size-fits-all set of rules govern eligibility, benefits and reimbursement rates. Not only is this counterintuitive, but also it is antithetical to our federalist system of government. States face various populations with differing needs, and they need the flexibility to find effective solutions. That's why I commend your work to produce legislation that encourages the kind of state-level innovation in Medicaid policy proposed by 29 governors.

Furthermore, the Medicaid program is currently one of the biggest drivers of our national debt. The status quo encourages autopilot increases in spending – spending we can't afford. By passing the State Health Flexibility Act and making Medicaid more efficient, Congress can avoid borrowing and spending another unnecessary \$1.8 trillion. Modeled after the successful welfare reforms of the 1990's, this bill has the potential to save taxpayers money while focusing aid on the most needy in society.

Many people in Washington are willing to talk about changing the direction of the “war on poverty,” making government more efficient, and providing greater economic opportunity for those who need it most. But few lawmakers are courageous enough to act. I applaud your efforts to propose this common-sense legislation.

The last “reform” in health care – the Affordable Care Act – will be devastating to Medicaid if enacted. Pushing millions more Americans into dependence on government is the wrong direction. States can't afford it, and Americans don't want it. In fact, it's not clear whether the Constitution even allows the federal government to bully the states into this kind of mandated expansion.

Independent Women's Voice urges Congress not only to pass the State Health Flexibility Act, but also to continue working to get the federal government out of American health care altogether, so that individuals can be in control of their own health care dollars, and so that states can find solutions tailored to their unique needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'HRH', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Heather R. Higgins  
President & CEO  
Independent Women's Voice